

Title I Innovation and Implementation Conference

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Speaker Information



Furman Brown

For nearly 25 years, Furman Brown has helped public schools (district and charter) redesign their use of time, talent, technology, professional development, and space. In 2004, he won a prestigious Echoing Green Prize. The global competition recognized him as “one of the world’s foremost emerging social entrepreneurs” for developing scalable and sustainable new school paradigms. He has dedicated his professional life to creating opportunities that help all students thrive regardless of life circumstances. He is an acknowledged leader in finding solutions that work within teachers’ contracts and at current per-pupil funding levels. His education career began as a teacher in the first-ever corps of Teach for America. He later founded the nationally regarded nonprofit organization Generation Schools. A frequent panelist, featured speaker, and design consultant nationally, Brown is now based in his home state of Colorado.



Ian Guidera

Ian Guidera, Senior Manager of District Improvement and Associate Director of the WestEd School Turnaround Center, leads district and school improvement efforts across the nation. A member of the Comprehensive School Assistance Program at WestEd, Guidera supports the leaders of districts and schools seeking to bring about dramatic and sustainable improvements to their organizational cultures and instructional systems. Guidera mentors and coaches leaders, leadership teams, and teachers. Guidera’s expertise is centered in coaching district and school leaders, building and improving systems in districts and schools, implementing instructional coaching systems, and developing positive, schoolwide college-going cultures. Guidera was a founding teacher, assistant principal, and principal at KIPP Academy of Opportunity (KAO), a charter middle school in South Los Angeles. He was awarded the national Teacher of the Year, KIPP Excellence in Teaching Award for the academic growth of his students. He received a BA in elementary education from Mount Saint Mary’s University; an MEd in supervision and administration from National Louis University; and an Education Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles’ Education Leadership Program.



Laura Gleisner

Laura Gleisner is an ICF certified professional leadership coach, facilitator, trainer, and lead executive of Laura Gleisner Coaching & Consulting Services. In her role as an educational consultant and WI Rtl Center regional coordinator, she spent the last decade coaching instructional leaders and leadership teams through transformational changes related to education. As an academic regional coordinator for the WI Rtl Center, Laura used her coaching, facilitation, and training skills to support leadership teams statewide in implementing a multi-level system of support. Laura also worked with Cardinal Stritch University to provide training for instructional coaches, equipping them with the skills and dispositions necessary to engage teachers in job-embedded reflection and professional development. If you are interested in learning more about Laura’s work go to www.lauragleisner.com.



Roxie Hentz

Roxie Hentz is a Title I Consultant at the Department of Public Instruction. In addition to consulting, she manages Wisconsin Schools of Recognition Teacher Fellowship grants and serves as a member of the State Equity Leadership Team (SELT). Her prior 22 years of experience in education includes serving as a Culturally Responsive Teacher Leader, District-Wide Teacher Mentor, university teacher-in-residence, adjunct professor and classroom teacher. Finally, for 17 years she served as the Founding Executive Director of Teen Approach, Inc., a non-profit organization serving urban youth. Among her awards and recognitions for her dedication to urban education and community leadership are the Fulbright Distinguished Teacher Award, Sr. Kliebhan Graduate Student of the Year Award for Service, Achievement, & Leadership, Jammin’ 98.3 Black History Maker Award, V100 Radio’s Positively People, and Channel 18’s Inside/ Outside Milwaukee. Roxie holds a BA in education from Marquette University and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and Doctorate in Education and Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service from Cardinal Stritch University.



Cristina Sanchez-Lopez

Cristina is a bilingual/ESL education specialist at the Illinois Resource Center (IRC). She collaborates with educators in the US and Canada on ELLs and special education, middle school mathematics, literacy across the content areas, multilingual education, engaging parents, and supporting Pre-K educators who serve English Learners (ELs). Prior to coming to the IRC, Cristina taught at the elementary, middle school, and university levels in the US and Mexico. At present, Cristina teaches graduate courses in the areas of ELL Reading in a New Language, as well as courses in the Foundations of Language minority education. Cristina is co-author on the book: Special Education Considerations for English Language Learners: Delivering a continuum of services (Caslon Publishing, 2nd edition, 2013) as well as various articles and chapters on addressing the needs of English learners. Cristina and her husband raised their daughter bilingually.



Melissa Tempel

Since 2012, Melissa Bollow Tempel has been Culturally Responsive Teacher Leader for Milwaukee Public Schools, working with teachers in 10 schools that receive funding from a grant from General Electric. Since 2000, Melissa worked as a classroom teacher in bilingual, dual language, and foreign language programs. Melissa is also an editor and writer for the nonprofit, Rethinking Schools, an equity and racial justice publisher. She is an organizer with the Educators’ Network for Social Justice, serving on the steering committee and planning team for their annual Anti-Racist/Anti-Bias Teaching Conference. Melissa and her husband live in Milwaukee and their daughters attend Milwaukee Public Schools.